

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital video recorder having an Internet phone, which is configured for voice communication among a plurality of remotely located digital video recorders connected through a network or the Internet or is configured for voice communication between the digital video recorder and a remote workstation, wherein:

the digital video recorder or remote workstation has a Windows or Linux operating system installed;

an internet phone is connected to a universal serial bus port of the digital video recorder or remote workstation;

a speaker and a microphone of the Internet phone are interfaced with the digital video recorder or remote workstation through a universal serial bus sound card of Windows or Linux system such that audio signals are transmitted through voice over internet protocol; and

operations of pushing key pad buttons and lifting the handset of the Internet phone are interfaced to the digital video recorder through an application interface.

2. The digital video recorder having an Internet phone as claimed in claim 1, wherein when a sensor connected to the digital video recorder senses an emergency situation to notify the remote workstation of an alarm event, the operator of the remote workstation immediately connects with the internet protocol address of the digital video recorder by lifting the handset of the Internet phone of the remote workstation to call the Internet phone of the digital video recorder to communicate with the operator of the digital video recorder via voice over internet protocol.

3. The digital video recorder having an Internet phone as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when a sensor connected to the digital video recorder senses an emergency situation notifies the remote workstation of an alarm event, the operator of the digital video recorder immediately connects with the internet protocol address of the remote workstation by lifting the handset of the internet phone of the digital video recorder to

call the Internet phone of the remote workstation to communicate with the remote workstation via voice over internet protocol.

4. The digital video recorder having an Internet phone as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the operator of the digital video recorder lifts the handset of the Internet phone of the digital video recorder, a directory of addresses of digital video recorders connectable with the digital video recorder through a network or the Internet or a separate internet protocol input window is displayed on the monitor of the digital video recorder, and the operator selects a desired address or directly inputs a desired internet protocol address to call the Internet phone of the digital video recorder corresponding to the selected address or internet protocol address so as to communicate with the selected digital video recorder through voice over internet protocol.

5. A method of connecting Internet phones respectively connected to universal serial bus ports of digital video recorders to an Internet phone connected to a universal serial bus port of a remote workstation, wherein the remote workstation is connectable with the digital video recorders through a network or the Internet, the method comprising:

when events are generated in the digital video recorders, automatically notifying the remote workstation of the events and storing identification information of the digital video recorders, such as internet protocol addresses; and

if there is only one event that has been recently notified, the operator of the remote workstation immediately calls the Internet phone of a corresponding digital video recorder to communicate with it through voice over internet protocol by lifting the handset of the Internet phone connected to the remote workstation; and

if there is a plurality of events that have been recently notified, the events are displayed in the order of time and the operator of the remote workstation selects one of the events to call the Internet phone of the digital video recorder corresponding to the selected event so as to communicate with the corresponding digital video recorder, through voice over internet protocol.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein:
if there is only one event that has been recently notified; and
if there is no event notified for a predetermined period of time after the remote workstation is notified of the events, displaying an address directory and IP address window to allow the operator of the digital video recorder or remote workstation to select a desired address or IP address instead of calling the selected address or IP address when the operator lifts the handset of the Internet phone.

7. A method of connecting remotely located Internet phones respectively connected to universal serial bus ports of a plurality of digital video recorders, wherein the digital video recorders are connected through a network or the Internet to allow the digital video recorders to communicate with one another through voice over internet protocol, comprising:

if the operator of an originating digital video recorder lifts the handset of the Internet phone connected to the originating digital video recorder, an address directory or an internet protocol address input window is displayed on the monitor of the originating digital video recorder and the operator of the originating digital video recorder selects a desired address or directly inputs a desired internet protocol address; and

if the Internet phone of a receiving digital video recorder corresponding to the selected address or internet protocol address rings and the operator of the receiving digital video recorder lifts the handset of the Internet phone of the receiving digital video recorder, the receiving digital video recorder communicates with the originating digital video recorder via voice over internet protocol.

8. An apparatus comprising a first digital video recorder configured to communicate using a voice over internet protocol.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first digital video recorder is coupled to a video camera.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the video camera is a surveillance video camera.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein an Internet phone is coupled to the first digital video recorder.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the Internet phone is coupled to the first digital video recorder through a universal serial bus connection.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first digital video recorder is configured to communicate with a second digital video recorder using a voice over internet protocol.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first digital video recorder is configured to communicate with a remote work station using a voice over Internet protocol.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:
the first digital video recorder is coupled to a first sensor;
if the first sensor is activated, then automatically initiating communication between the first digital video recorder and the remote workstation using a voice over Internet protocol.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the automatically initiating communication causes an Internet phone of the remote workstation to ring when an Internet phone of the first digital video recorder is activated.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the Internet phone of the first digital video recorder is activated by an operator of the first digital video recorder picking up the receiver of the Internet phone of the first digital video recorder.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the automatically initiating communication causes an Internet phone of the first digital video recorder to ring when an Internet phone of the remote workstation is activated.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the Internet phone of the remote workstation is activated by an operator of the remote workstation picking up the receiver of the Internet phone of the remote workstation.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:
the remote workstation is configured to communicate with a second digital video recorder;
the second digital video recorder is coupled to a second sensor;
if the first sensor and the second sensor are activated at the same time, then the remote workstation selectively communicates with either the first digital video recorder or the second digital video recorder by an option to be automatically connected using a voice over Internet protocol to either the first digital video recorder and the second digital video recorder.